

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9 and 11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-6 and 9 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0036] and [0039]. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested, at least in light of the following Remarks.

I. §112 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action asserts that "angle of view" as recited in claim 5 is not sufficiently supported in the specification and is indefinite. Claim 5 is amended responsive to the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,811,737 to Fukuta et al. ("Fukuta") in view of JP-09-085481 to Onodera et al. ("Onodera") and U.S. Patent No. 4,557,773 to Bonzo; and rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukuta in view of Onodera and Bonzo, and further in view of JP-01-233083 to Kanehara et al. ("Kanehara"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applied references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose and would not have rendered obvious "wherein the tape bonder includes a winding element for winding a residual portion of the tape after that is created after the tape is cut by the laser oscillator," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Fukuta impliedly discloses a tape bonder because Fukuta discloses a sheet 4 adhered to an end surface of a ceramic honeycomb formed body 1. However, Fukuta fails to disclose any structure of the alleged tape bonder. Therefore, Fukuta fails to disclose the claimed winding element. Onodera discloses a laser machining head used

in a welding process (see Onodera, Abstract). Therefore, Onodera fails to remedy the deficiency of Fukuta.

In the rejection of claim 9, the Office Action asserts that Bonzo discloses an apparatus for applying a length of tape, film or web to the end face of a honeycomb structure, where the tape is in a wound state. However, the apparatus of Bonzo does not correspond to the tape bonder of claim 1. For example, the apparatus of Bonzo pulls a tape 110 via a combination of a jaw 113 and an arm 114 while the tape 110 is cut by a heated edge 120 (see Bonzo, Fig. 14 and col. 15, lines 45-57). The apparatus of Bonzo fails to include a winding element that winds residual portions of the tape 110 after the tape 110 has been cut. As disclosed in paragraph [0036] of Applicants' specification, the claimed winding element allows the tape to be continuously bonded onto plural honeycomb structural bodies using a single band-shaped tape. The claimed winding element also allows the tape to be continuously wound, thereby reducing the unused portions of the tape and improving efficiency. Therefore, Bonzo fails to remedy the deficiency of Fukutu and Onodera.

Kanehara merely discloses a position correcting device for a laser beam machine and fails to disclose an element corresponding to the winding element of claim 1. Therefore, Kanehara fails to remedy the deficiency of Fukutu, Onodera and Bonzo.

Dependent claims 4-9 and 11 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, the dependent claims are patentable at least for their dependence from claim 1, as well as for the additional features those claims recite.

Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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